



City of Omaha
Jim Suttle, Mayor

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For Immediate Release

Flood Response Update

Tuesday, 6/28/11

June 28, 2011 –

Assistant Fire Chief Dan Stolinski provided the following information on flood response activities at the daily press briefing:

- The Missouri River water elevation level is currently at 34.91 feet (flood stage is 29 feet). This estimate was provided by the National Weather Service. The Gavins Point Dam is currently releasing 160,000 cubic feet per second.
- Modifications to the Burt/Izard pump stations continue. The trail by Riverfront Drive will be closed starting Thursday (6/30). Closure of the trail will allow additional pipes to be connected to the channel feeding into the Missouri River. The trail will remain closed for several weeks.
- Direct mailers are being sent to residents and businesses within the flood evacuation zone. Approximately 2,291 mailers will be sent in total.
- Unified Command has primarily been using three social media tools to spread flood information:
 1. Facebook – This page can be accessed by searching for “Douglas County Joint Information Center”.
 2. Twitter – Follow @DouglasCty_JIC
 3. Website – www.omahaflood.org
- Volunteer sandbagging operations at Levi Carter Park will continue on Thursday (6/30) and Friday (7/1). Volunteers can help sandbag from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will not be sandbagging this Saturday due to the holiday weekend.

Gary Gates, the CEO of the Omaha Public Power District, updated members of the media about their flood-related efforts:

- The primary goal of OPPD is continuing to provide enough power for its customers. OPPD is confident this can be done even without the Ft. Calhoun nuclear station being active.
- Several OPPD substations have been protected in case flood water approaches these facilities.
- Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Plant-
 1. Both the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and members of Nebraska’s Congressional Delegation were given a tour of the plant. All parties left convinced that OPPD is proactively preparing to combat the rising Missouri River water.
 2. OPPD employees currently have full access to all areas of the nuclear plant.
 3. The plant has been shut down since April 9th in accordance with its routine maintenance schedule. Because the plant was previously shut down, the heat level is at a manageably low level.

4. OPPD has talked with both its outside insurance providers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency about possible reimbursement for expenses incurred. Additionally, OPPD is cutting their budget by \$9 million to account for money being spent to secure their facilities.
5. A Recovery Team has already been assembled. This group will supervise the restarting of Ft. Calhoun after water levels recede. Comprehensive inspections will take place before the plant is reactivated.

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